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# The Daily Post

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## Murder trial aborted

By Jill Nicholas for NZPA

A trial in the High Court at Rotorua where five Mura-para men were charged with murdering 17-year-old Kaine Lewis has been aborted.

Justice John Priestley told the jury of seven women and five men yesterday the combination of a number of factors had led him to discharge them.

He hoped for the sake of the accused and the Mura-para community a new trial date would be set as quickly as possible and would speak to the Chief Justice about that.

"The fates have conspired against us," Justice Priestley said as he thanked the jurors.

On trial were Neville Duff, 33, Joshua Lesley-Whitu, 18, David Te Wharerangi Rewi, 25, Jerome Takere Rutene and Hemi Winitana, both 19, all charged with murdering Kaine Lewis of Kaingaroa at Mura-para on October 3, 2009 and participating in an organised criminal group between October 2 and 3 that year.

On the murder count they were jointly charged with Norton Taoho, 19, who had earlier pleaded guilty to that charge while the Crown had offered no evidence on the criminal group charge.

Another man, Jarrod Tumoana Rewi, 19, was discharged on the murder count but pleaded guilty to participating in an organised criminal group. The accused are jointly charged with him on that.

A criminal group charge against Abraham Jozef Eruera Roberts, 24, was withdrawn after the Crown indicated it would not offer any evidence against him.

Justice Priestley told the jury that as result of an application made by Rotorua counsel, Andy Schulze, he had been going to discharge them from reaching a verdict relating to David Rewi.

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# SIX YEARS FOR KILLING HIS PARTNER



JAILED: Gavin Horua.

PHOTO/BEN FRASER

A Kaingaroa man who beat his partner after finding her kissing another man has been jailed for six years for her manslaughter.

Gavin Horua, 35, was sentenced by Justice John Priestley in the High Court at Rotorua yesterday. The judge ordered Horua spend a minimum of three years behind bars for the manslaughter of Luana Ani Raukawa at Kaingaroa on November 11, 2009.

He recommended Horua undergo psychological counselling and violence prevention programmes while behind bars.

Addressing whanau in the public gallery, Justice Priestley said he accepted they would regard the sentence as inadequate but it was based on sound legal principles he was obliged to uphold.

He thanked whanau for their courtesy and attention throughout the trial.

Horua pleaded guilty to Ms Raukawa's manslaughter on the third day of his trial, which began on May 30.

At sentencing the judge said Horua's mother had also been a victim of domestic violence.

"It is a great shame, despite lessons from your childhood, you have chosen to follow the pattern of your father's behaviour," he told Horua.

He noted 11 of Horua's 48 previous convictions had been for breaching protection orders, assaulting females, injuring and assault with intent to cause injury and assaulting a police officer.

Horua had not benefited from anger management programmes and it was understandable that Ms Raukawa's whanau had rejected his offer to take part in a restorative justice meeting with them. They had been robbed of a vibrant and caring woman, Justice Priestley said.

Horua had no reason to disbelieve evidence that Ms Raukawa was kissing another man rather than being intimate with him when he saw them on a bed they shared

as partners, the judge said. Regardless, Horua had "lost it".

He had dragged her into a hallway where he had inflicted blows to her head and various parts of her body. However, it was possible some of the injuries to Ms Raukawa's body could have been from two falls she'd had in the evening while at a party celebrating the birthday of one of her daughters. Both she and Horua were heavily intoxicated.

A pathologist's evidence established she died of a relatively rare injury from a blow that caused her brain to bleed.

Outside the court Horua's aunt, Georgina Paerata, a retired nurse health-manager of Tokomaru Bay, described the sentence as fair.

"He has been tried by the courts of the land and the outcome is a fair judgment, as the judge said he has to go by the law," Mrs Paerata said.

Her family showed Ms Raukawa's family the greatest sympathy, empathy and respect. Her husband, retired school teacher Te Rawhiti Paerata, said he hoped lessons had been learned from the tragic event, in particular that over-consumption of alcohol results in unhappiness.

Ms Raukawa's whanau declined to comment publicly on Horua's sentence.

At a previous hearing a relative of Ms Raukawa's and former national head of Women's Refuge, Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, told *The Daily Post* Horua's guilty plea had saved her family the trauma of sitting through the rest of the trial. She said if alcohol had not been involved Ms Raukawa would still be alive.

"The loss of life in these circumstances is sad for both the family and Maori. At the end of the day we have two more grim statistics — a Maori man who has taken the life of his partner and a Maori woman who has lost her life to an abusive partner," Mrs Raukawa-Tait said.

— Alison King/Jill Nicholas for NZPA

## JOB HUNTERS:



## What bosses could find out about you

By Anita Moran  
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Rotorua residents are being warned their online footprint could prevent them from getting a job.

Recruiters and employers trawl social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to search for inappropriate behaviour before hiring people.

A sparkling CV, work experience and referees are no longer enough, with many employers conducting Google searches to gain an impression of job candidates.

In the United States, there are businesses set up exclusively to scour the internet for social media background checks on job candidates and Rotorua-based recruitment firms and employers confirm they are checking people's online interaction.

*The Daily Post* checked random Facebook profiles and found information about people who would otherwise be strangers. One man had a private wall, but his photos were available and showed an image of an indoor cannabis growing operation. Others showed their likes and interests, often with crude pages and activities.

Talent ID recruitment and human resources specialist Kate Hudson said it wasn't unusual for recruiters and employers to search Facebook for potential employees.

"It is not something which we carry out as procedure but other employers do. We have checked online profiles from time to time."

Mrs Hudson said people needed to be careful of how they promoted themselves online.

"It isn't just Facebook profiles, it can be personal email addresses and answerphone messages. It all provides a first impression to a potential employer. No one wants to hire someone who goes online and represents their company in a bad light."

One of the city's biggest employers, Rotorua District Council, does not currently check Facebook profiles in the recruitment process.

Rotorua District Council human resources manager Judy Holden said the company would be reviewing it's recruitment processes.

"I can certainly see the benefit of it but it isn't something that we do currently."

## Customising privacy settings

1. Click on "account" on the top-right corner and then "privacy preferences".
2. Click on "customise settings" then choose who you would like to see your information.
3. You can choose who sees everything on your profile — your status, photos, posts, bio and favourite quotations, family and relationships, photos and videos you're tagged in, religious and political views, birthday, permission to comment on your posts and more.
4. There are three settings of people — everyone, friends of friends and friends only. There is also a custom setting which can be used to prevent your different lists of people from seeing certain things permanently instead of blocking them every time you post something.
5. Before you save it, click on "preview my profile" — this will show you how other people see your profile, plus you can type in your friends' names and see how it appears to them.

Rotorua Chamber of Commerce chief executive Roger Gordon said he still preferred face to face contact with potential employees but said people should be aware employers could check online profiles.

"Some people do put silly things on their Facebook pages which can be easy for people to see so it would be wise for them to keep that in mind when they are looking for work."

Waiariki Institute of Technology social networking expert Narissa Bayler said she often warned students about what they put online but younger people didn't seem worried about it.

Mrs Bayler said people needed to decide what they wanted to use Facebook for and who they wanted to be friends with. Facebook often had a default where friends of friends could see personal information about people.

"You should seriously think about how you use your online profile."

Mrs Bayler said cyber footprints could be huge. "The stuff people can find out about someone online is quite amazing. Information can stay online forever and people don't realise just how much information about them is out there."

## Freeze for Taupo but icy blast set to miss Rotorua

By John Lazo-Ron  
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It seems Rotorua will escape the worst of the polar blast expected to strike the Central North Island this weekend, but Taupo residents are bracing for extreme weather.

MetService has issued a severe

weather warning for Taupo this weekend and the early part of next week, including the strong possibility of heavy snow to fall at low levels in the town, which could lead to major disruptions.

MetService said the approaching cold snap would rival the storm and cold outbreak experienced in

the district two weeks ago.

Rotorua should be mainly fine this weekend and next week, but is in for a cold snap with temperatures predicted to reach as low as -3C on Wednesday, and cold, gusty winds lingering during the week.

Taupo emergency manager Phil

Parker has warned locals to be ready for the polar blast, saying it would most likely be worse than the previous snap and cause significant disruption.

"It is predicted to be very cold and we are expecting snow at low levels ... so this one is not something we get all the time.

"With the MetService having put out a severe weather advisory — and that's something they don't do very often — I think they're expecting this outbreak to be very big," Mr Parker said.

"There is a bit of concern at the moment. I'm expecting it to be a lot worse than two weeks ago."

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